

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
Report

September 2007

USA Comments

CHAPTER 2.6.6.

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Article 2.6.6.1.

The pig ~~and its closest relatives are~~ is the only natural host for African swine fever (ASF) virus. ~~The definition of pig~~ These includes all varieties of *Sus scrofa*, both domestic and wild, warthogs (*Phacochoerus* spp.), bushpigs (*Potamochoerus* spp.) and giant forest hog (*Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*). For the purposes of this chapter, a distinction is made between domestic pigs (permanently captive and farmed free-range pigs) and wild pigs (including feral pigs and wild boar) as well as between *Sus scrofa* and African pig species.

All varieties of *Sus scrofa* are susceptible to the pathogenic effects of ASF virus, while the African wild pigs are not and act as reservoirs of the *infection*. Ticks of the genus *Ornithodoros* are natural hosts of the virus and act as biological vectors of the *infection*.

For the purpose of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *incubation period* in *Sus scrofa* is 15 days.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

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Rationale: Although not proposed for change and comment, the opening sentence in Article 2.6.6.1 does not recognize that the types of pigs affected by ASF virus are a little different, and this may cause some confusion. To provide further clarity we, therefore, propose the slightly modified language.